

These are but a few glimpses of a swiftly moving procession of events, each of which we believe has had its effect in bringing about the great increase noted in public interest and information, and in creating the present favorable outlook for further progress during 1937. Many other factors were involved. A particularly fortunate set of circumstances combined to open the way for these activities, and behind these were years of hard work by all concerned with family health and welfare to bring about just such circumstances, and direction and purpose and planning which enable the wise use of the fortunate situation when it finally occurred. To the leaders and workers who have for long devoted their thought and labor to attack on the barriers of silence and ignorance which, we may hope, are now definitely beginning to break down, belong the praise and the credit and the gratitude of posterity. And in the exultation of the moment over the possibility of actually conquering syphilis at last, it is not forgotten that other phases of the social hygiene program—among them education for marriage and parenthood, the repression of prostitution, and the prevention of sex delinquency—have played and must continue to play, an important part in the programs and benefits of the future.

As the agency serving as a national clearing house, the Association and its staff as workers in the ranks, take pleasure in presenting this brief review, and in behalf of the social hygiene societies and the communities for which they labor, we thank all who have helped in any way in the year's progress, and bespeak their coöperation in the days to come.\*

### "AMATEUR" AND BRANCH NIGHT

#### Los Angeles County Medical Association Institutes Unique Entertainment Feature

Standing room only! Everybody was out to see colleagues "do their stuff."

Amateur and Branch Night at the Los Angeles County Medical Association on Thursday evening, March 4, packed the Lounge.

This unique evening of entertainment, which brought many members of the branches and their families to the Association, began with a dinner in the Association headquarters, at which there were 160 guests.

Following the dinner the president, Dr. John P. Nuttall, introduced the master of ceremonies for the evening, Dr. D. G. Tollefson. Much credit goes to Doctor Tollefson and his physician associates who took part in the program, and who were responsible for making the evening a great success.

Doctor Tollefson, as a preliminary and unannounced skit, called upon the secretaries of the branches to answer certain questions relative to those parts of Los Angeles County in which their respective branches functioned. Some of these were pertinent and humorous questions. The secretaries, however, faced the ordeal without flinching, and some came through victorious. The "talent display" from the various geographical branches was then brought forward.

First was the presentation of the Alhambra branch: Doctor Eugene S. Maxson's rendition of two poems by Kipling—"Gunga Din" and "Boots"—winning much applause.

Dr. Marvel Beem of Santa Monica—Doctor Beem, by the way, has a splendid voice—opened the program for the Santa Monica branch with songs of the type that Lawrence Tibbett likes to sing. Dr. R. J. Morrison's impersonation of Harry Lauder—costume, coughs, cane and all—was fine entertainment. Dr. John Bergmann, the accompanist, completed the Santa Monica act.

The Pasadena branch for years has been hiding the ability of its professional men in ballet technique. Ballet costumes are intriguing on the male form. They created a picture filled with movement and of beauty that certainly never could have been imagined by anyone who was not fortunate enough to see it. So graceful was their interpretation of a difficult Russian dance that they were

presented with a gorgeous vegetable bouquet, which expressed the appreciation of some of their admirers. Doctors Robert K. Gustafson, Lyle G. Craig, Ralph E. Netzeley, and Russell M. Decker made up the ballet, the accompanist being Doctor Decker.

Because Amateur Night happened to fall upon the same night as the Speakers' Bureau, the Master of Ceremonies called for remarks from the Speakers' Bureau, pertinent to the work of that Bureau.

Dr. H. O. Bames, scheduled for a talk at the Speakers' Bureau meeting, must be given credit for arising to a very difficult situation when he was called upon by the Master of Ceremonies to give his talk. Doctor Bames in doing this set an example for all who aspire to address public gatherings. To be a good speaker, one must be prepared, of course, at all times, to get on one's feet, and even when the spirit that surrounds one is of levity, to be able to command attention—this Doctor Bames did.

Doctors George B. Kryder, S. H. Welch, F. E. Poole, Fred W. Loring, Orrie Ghrist, and William M. Gibbs made up the Glendale troupe, announced as the "Choral Society of Glendale," otherwise known as the "Disturb-ers." To describe this act one has to use the term "burlesque." The theme of the show was a sponsored radio broadcast.

Dr. Clinton D. Hubbard of Huntington Park mystified the audience by pulling white rabbits out of hats, and other feats of magic. Much applause greeted this presentation of the southeast branch.

From Pomona came a male quartet: Doctors H. C. Anderson, C. A. Arneson, C. W. White, M. R. Jones, and Elwin Welch, in blackface. Good voices all and fine entertainment.

Long Beach, one of the largest branches, depended upon only two of its members to uphold the honors of that branch. But the Branch had reason for its confidence in these two doctors—Raymond Swinney and R. T. Uhls. The act opened with the singing of "Frankie and Johnny," with guitar accompaniment by Doctor Uhls. The setting was of an older time in a small town in Iowa and a medicine show. Doctor Swinney, as Dr. I. Curem, gave a most realistic portrayal of the old-time Medicine Man exhorting "Bray-zilian Oil" and cure-alls of various types for the cure of man and beasts. Yes, this was an act.

Nearly four hundred members attended the show. It was one of the biggest gatherings at the Association since the opening of the headquarters building several years ago.

### EXPERT WITNESSES\*

By EDWARD C. KRAUSS

The old controversy about expert witnesses has been revived by the publication, CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, with a brand-new suggestion—that members of the medical profession refuse to testify as experts unless appointed by the Court.

California law provides for the appointment of experts by the Court for both civil and criminal cases, but also permits the testimony of experts hired by either or both sides. The courts have frequently used the power to appoint experts in criminal cases, but they rarely appear in civil cases; with the result that personal injury suits, in particular, seem to be battles between groups of experts open to the suspicion of being partisans of either plaintiff or defendant.

No self-respecting medical man wants to be put in this position, say Doctors H. D. Barnard and George E. Tucker in the publication referred to, but there is no agreement as to how the situation can be avoided. The suggestion that they decline to appear except when appointed by the Court is made by Dr. Andrew S. Lobingier, who originally suggested the present California statute permitting court appointment.

The law provides all that is needed, in the opinion of Doctor Lobingier; what is at fault is the apathy of judges in exercising their privilege. But if the judges will not act, the medical men can, since there is no compulsion upon experts to give testimony. A witness may be re-

\* From the American Social Hygiene Association.

\* Editorial, Los Angeles Times, March 3, 1937.